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FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1912.

FOR SOME MOTHER'S CHILD.

The old world is full of fine feeling, and none is prettier than this idea of helping some mother's child by buying a white flower in honor of your own mother. The Federation of Mothers' Clubs has shown that divine quickening of all motherhood at the call of the little children. These tender-hearted women had planned to sell white flowers throughout the city on Saturday so that those who wanted to observe Sunday, May 12, as Mother's Day, might purchase of them and so help the funds of the federation. Then came the appeal for money to help conduct the summer vacation trips for poor and sickly children to the home of Dr. Gwyn Harrison. The splendid charity of the "good old doctor of Clarke county" in taking nearly a hundred children a year into his own home and giving them six weeks of joy and health in the country spoke with simplicity and directness to these happier mothers of happier children. And they have given a beautiful practical end to the symbolism of the white flower in promising that half of all the money made from this sale shall be devoted to furthering Dr. Harrison's hopes this summer.

We sincerely trust that the white flowers will bear a golden harvest. Not often do things happen so like the fairy tales as this. Doubtless to Dr. Harrison, worn out by a long illness, his dreams of making life easier to more and more children seemed about to fail, unless some godmother came to his assistance. And here is the best godmother of all, the love and honor that men bear to their own mothers, coming to serve the children whom some other mother loves. The white flower in a coat on Sunday will mean the glow of a pink cheek on some pale cheeks; and the debt each one owes to her who suffered for him, and who can never be repaid, may in some way be lightened if from the memory of that debt it may happen that somewhere a little child shall laugh in the sunshine.

THE INSANITY FRAUD.

"Reports of Physicians Show Richeson as an Insane Man."

The same old story. Wearing the white flower of one of God's anointed, this human wolf wronged and then murdered Avis Linnell, a beautiful young girl, who believed that her pastor could do her no evil. Richeson, under the awful lash of an avenging conscience, confessed, but as the electric chair loomed before him, black and final, the familiar technical word is introduced. The time of the law is reaching out to send its terrible lightning through his horrible body, only to be arrested by a paid expert. The so-called "expert" on insanity close the process of justice. Cold-blooded murder is sought to be evaded by a plea which, instead of being extraordinary, as the law intended it to be, is now more ordinary.

Richeson may be insane, and he may escape the pit that opens before him, but tens of thousands will believe that his insanity is feigned. Wherever goes the printed page will be found those who think that Richeson's insanity is of the Thaw type. Whenever the news of crime perpetrates will be found those who believe that any criminal can be declared insane. For the hundreds who may hold to the opinion that Richeson's mind is unsound, there are hundreds more who believe that he is not feigning an easy and common means of escape from merited punishment. Insanity as a plea for a condemned murderer gains slight respect from the public. Expert testimony gains less. The insanity plea is regarded generally as a scheme to cheat the gallows or the electric chair. Counsel for the defense go through the catalogue of technicalities and evasions, and then, when all other things have failed, the insanity expert is trotted out. Why is it that insanity is found only after the accused is condemned?

Innocent men, men who are genuinely insane, suffer because of the fraud of sane and guilty men, who seek to avoid themselves of the insanity plea. Some fine experts are discredited because of the maledictions of crooked criminal lawyers. Richeson may be insane, but thousands believe he is not, simply because he enters such a plea. His insanity experts may be above criticism, but thousands believe that they are not simply because they save the grounds for such a plea; his counsel may be the best of them, but because counsel in other notorious murder cases have set up the insanity plea, Richeson's legal advisers may be simply criticized.

The plea of insanity as a bar to punishment for crime is dangerously loose. Thaw commits murder, pleads

insanity, and is about to go free. The criminally responsible claim the protection of the plea as often and as fully as the criminally irresponsible. Its frequent employment in the cases of red-handed and unquestionably sane murderers has caused it to be considered as the last refuge of the guilty, rather than as the proper method of clemency and mercy for the insane. It would not be strange if the misuse of this wholly righteous plea, so often unrighteously invoked, is responsible for much of the popular discontent with and distrust of the courts. The people have no patience with a system which permits the escape of the guilty under the cloak intended for the legally guilty. In none of its phases does criminal law so need revision and a tightening up of the lines as in this matter of insanity pleas in capital cases.

THE UNVISION OF PROPHETS.

What we need in this tumultuous year of topsturdy politics is a perfectly safe and sane oracle without a drawback to tell us what will be the result of the presidential "game." Otherwise both the major and minor prophets are going to be fooled, and also the Colonels-Waterstones and carvers. As a matter of fact, "nobody knows nothing," and the man who gets up to say that Taft cannot possibly be elected, and that the Republican party is wrecked, death a vain and presumptuous thing. As Mr. Ball-four once remarked, the word "never" is used only by those who are very young. Those who are about to bury the Republican party must be very young or they would not have forgotten what an exceedingly reluctant corpse it makes.

The Republican party has been wrecked before, but rising by some sort of Phoenix attachment, it managed to hobble into the White House. In 1884 it was given up for dead, after just recovering from a predicted extinction in 1880. In that year there was a bitter third term fight, and the party was split into two powerful and contending factions. The wisecracks declared that Grant and Conkling between them had made Garfield's chances impossible. Yet his easy election showed the small value of such prognostication. In 1892, when confirmed Republican States began handshaking to Cleveland, veteran politicians said the old party was wiped off the map. It may have been, but out of the detritus of the landslide it composed a new map whence it gathered a majority in four straight elections. Like "Fuzzy-Wuzzy," the Republican party is generally only shambling when it's dead.

Other Presidents have been in President Taft's position of "doomed to defeat," and yet succeeded them a yes without waiting till the second cup of coffee got cold. Even Lincoln in 1861 believed that he could not win against the prejudice of his countrymen. And coming at once to his prototype, Mr. Roosevelt was somewhat dubious himself in 1894. Mark Hanna was dodging anxiously with his hat, and the strenuous one protested that "Mr. Hanna ought to make an unequivocal public statement of his position." And many wise men thought, and said, that the renomination of Theodore Roosevelt meant defeat.

There is no wisdom and vision that at this time can read the multiple mind of a nation of ninety millions spread over a continent and including every strain and complexion of political belief. And the fact remains that if the Democrats are relying for victory upon the hopes voiced by various clairvoyant sibilas, they have the slender support of dubious guessing. It will take something more than the possible demise of the party of Taft to encourage a Democrat in the White House. The wrangling gladiators may be digging their own graves, but it will take a sane progressive and constructive unit opposition to force them into it. Prophets see visions and so do people in delirium. Cassandra brought ruin on the troika toward of Ilion because she told the truth and nobody believed her; Democrats may do likewise by believing too hard where there is a scant base of truth.

THE RED ROCK IN VIRGINIA.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger, that perhaps comes nearer being an independent Republican newspaper than any other contemporary one claiming to be very much pleased with the Pennsylvania Democratic platform, which it considers an honest attempt to express sound but progressive Democratic doctrine, it is especially pleased with the declaration on the judiciary, the avoidance of the writs of popular rule into which the Pennsylvania Republicans under Ross Fling so recklessly plunged, and the pledge to achieve of recall of judges and judicial decisions—Rooseveltian New Nationalism and Progressivism.

The Philadelphia Republican platform demands judicial emancipation. The judiciary plank in the Pennsylvania Democratic platform reads:

"The true remedy for the removal of the barriers which come of the courts have created against progressive legislation will be found in the assertion of the democratic and American principles of the separation of judicial and legislative functions. The evil has its foundation in judicial legislation, and the Democratic party, supported by public opinion, will successfully demand that the courts shall cease from interfering with the discretion of the Legislature in the exercise of the police power and shall be relieved from all executive functions."

The Public Ledger's comments upon and its analysis of the spirit and the letter of this deliverance are worthy of general attention. They are strikingly timely, pertinent and illuminating in the circumstances of the confusion in the public mind touching what is needed in respect of judicial

reform, where it is needed, and where the courts may have transcended their powers or stepped outside of their province. Our contemporary admits that in the declaration concessions are made to the apparently universal demand that the judiciary shall receive guidance and reproof, but no countenance is, as it states, given either to recall of judges or judicial decisions. It points out that it is not even inferred that if the courts, through error or aggression, are tempted to go beyond the limits of their functions, either the judges or their decisions shall be recalled by the people. There is a tested way of reaching flagrant cases, which both our contemporary and the party pronouncement recognize by implication.

Supporters of constitutional government and of the judiciary, the Public Ledger believes, can subscribe to the declaration. It is, it argues, sound Democratic, sound Republican doctrine, using the terms in their comprehensive sense, to insist that the courts be held to their proper duties; if the courts legislate they should stop; such is the spirit and intent of our constitutional system as bearing upon the several departments of the government. The argument is eminently sound. The other side is not disputable.

It is interesting to note that this old rock of the declaration in question is to be found in Virginia. It is embodied in the fifth article of the Virginia Declaration of Bill of Rights, on which is built the differentiation of the powers of governments in all the States and in the national order. That article, as originally written by George Mason and incorporated into the Virginia Constitution of 1776, reads:

"That the legislative and executive powers of the State should be separate and distinct from the judiciary; and that the members of the two first may be restrained from oppression, by feeling and participating the burdens of the people, they should, at fixed periods, be reduced to a private station, return into that body from which they were originally taken, and the vacancies be supplied by frequent, certain and regular elections, in which all or any part of the former members may be again eligible or ineligible, as the laws shall direct."

In the Constitution of 1851 this article was amended so as to conform it to the provision of that instrument prescribing fixed terms for the judges who, previous to that time, held office for life or during "good behavior." But there was no change in the conservative and constraining principle, which is an independent judiciary, and no "judge-made law," in effect, legislation from the bench. Adherence to that is all the judicial reform the country needs.

CIVIC TOURS IN EUROPE.

A tour of European cities is to be made this summer by a number of students of civic and social conditions, under the direction of the International Civic Bureau. The object of the trip will be to learn how American cities can be made more sanitary and more attractive and their governments more efficient. A similar tour last summer was conducted by the Boston Chamber of Commerce. It provided much valuable information to a number of citizens who are now trying out new ideas or seeking to have them tried out in the Massachusetts capital. In the coming tour a study will be made of:

Town planning, municipal ownership of land and public utilities, municipal housing, suburban development, the "city beautiful," the development of parks, co-partnership villages, co-operative schemes, the garden city movement, employment trusts, employment, welfare work, old age pension systems, insurance schemes, taxation, sanitation, inland waterways, the development of harbors, recreation centres, people's palaces, effective methods of cleaning up the slum, prevention of land speculation.

This is a large program for a forty-nine-days' trip on the Continent, and, of course, the study cannot be very thorough. The time will be profitably spent, nevertheless—much better than on the ordinary European tour. If we are to improve our cities, such undertakings are commendable. The Old World cities have much to teach municipalities on this side of the water. It should not be long until under the auspices of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce our business men will go across the pond and come back with new ideas for Richmond.

Where is the old-fashioned man that knew the name of the Vice-President?

The Health Department says that the unusual number of mad dogs this year has absolutely no connection with national politics. The dogs are not near so mad.

"When you hear me howling when some one hits me below the belt you will notice it."—Theodore Roosevelt.

Judging from what he does when some one hits him a perfectly square blow above the belt, we should say you probably will.

The Directory is boosting Greater Richmond. It contains the names of some 60,000 persons not in the city limits. But they are all Richmonders.

Uncle Simpson Peiper says that one of the most pathetic sights in the world is a little shapless man trying on a ready-made suit in a store while his wife superintends.

The air brake men must know by now that the Richmond brand of air is the best in the world.

The chief vegetable crop in Alaska is the potato. But unfortunately the chief animal crop is the mosquito, who wants to go there to eat potatoes.

On the Spur of the Moment
By Roy K. Moulton

The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring.
(Revamped from "The Milkade" with apologies to Gilbert & Sullivan.)
Flowers that bloom in the spring, tra la la.
Have never appealed much to me. For them I do not care a ding, tra la la.
Their beauties I can never sing, tra la la.
Their sentiment I cannot see.
They do not inspire me. For they only tire me. They're one of the curses of my life. They're far too extensive. For things so expensive, they bloom in the hat of my wife.

From the Hicksville Clarion.
Uncle Ezra Harkins of our town has received word that his brother, out in Wyoming, has had another narrow escape from death. The State Board of Pardons got busy on his case just in time.

If the sun shone every single day in the year on both sides of the streets, this would be a blamed monotonous world to live in.

There is such a thing as being too happy all the time, but a fellow can very easily avoid this by moving next door to a family that has three daughters takin' lessons, and a young son who plays on the mandolin.

The barber shop is the great musical centre of this country. I never yet saw a barber who didn't play something, even if it was only a cold.

Amos Hilliker went down to New York the other day to paint the town red, but was back on the next train. He ran out of paint. He only had \$12.

There are moments when one wants to be alone. One of these moments is when you follow one of those coal-scuttle hats about nine blocks and when he turns around you find that it is your wife's sister.

The fellow that has traveled the least generally talks the most about it.

Hints to the Lovelorn.
(By Miss Beatrice Sparshill, the world famous Lovelornist.)
Dear Miss Sparshill—Charlie didn't call me up as usual yesterday and I am desolated. It seems an age since I have seen him. Oh, how I wish, can it be that he has grown cold? It's a pity something has went wrong.

Ans.—Fear not, little one. Maybe they have performed a surgical operation on him and removed his telephone for confinement of rest.

Dear Miss Sparshill—The postage stamp on the last letter I got from Gloria was stuck on cornerwise and upside down. What does that mean in postage stamp language?

Ans.—It means that she stuck it on in the dark while she was hurrying to post it on a street car. Cheer up, Percy. She will find you yet.

Dear Miss Sparshill—My wife expects me to go out and rob a hen roost so she can have a feathered hat. What the dickens can I do to keep peace in the family and still retain my self-respect?

Ans.—There is only one thing to do. Pate, and that is to rob the hen roost. If you don't she probably will.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE
A Plea for Mr. Bryan.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—The greatness of a man is often revealed in his apparent failure. The excellence of his character, the loftiness of his principles and the nobility of his soul are frequently mirrored in his visible defeat. Immediate success is more than apt to minimize the issue and prove a snare, which, when it is broken, leaves a still higher and ideal and increases the desire to approximate it. The ideal is magnified when it finds a martyr.

Look for a great principle is noble to suffer for it, a sublime; but to die for it is to glorify and render it imperishable. We may measure a man by the contribution of self to a cause, in whatever department of endeavor. Look over the long list of earthly failures, and you will be sure to find there the world's rarest souls.

Mr. Bryan has proven a failure as a successful leader of Democracy who could secure the immediate ends sought, but the result of an election is insignificant in the evolution of Democracy. It is not important to elect the candidate, but it is vital to educate the electorate. This hope and safety of this great republic lies not in its sums and its fortresses, nor in the election of one of the parties' candidates over another, but rather in the education of the people to an intelligent and patriotic participation in election.

I doubt if this country has ever had an abler and greater exponent and exemplar of this cause than William J. Bryan. This man's contribution to real self-government will loom large in the history of American politics. No one has excelled him in tireless and persistent effort, amid disappointments and cruel discouragement, to place in the hands of the common people the power to rule.

There is no disposition here to criticize or malign those who have opposed him. We cannot make men; we have to take them as we find them. Mr.

Voice of the People

Hercules of the Titanic.
"He saved others; himself he cannot save."
O stars that shone on Seas of Pain,
Where Life was showered like drops of rain
On thy cold bosom lay sea,
Mid scenes of speechless agony,
O kindly Soul! Our Heroes True!
I bring my head in tears for you,
For breaking hearts that mourn your loss,
And crushed the prone beneath the cross

O hearts that suffer hearts that break!
And lay down life for others' sake,
How poor this world would be
Had Life no dark Gethsemane!

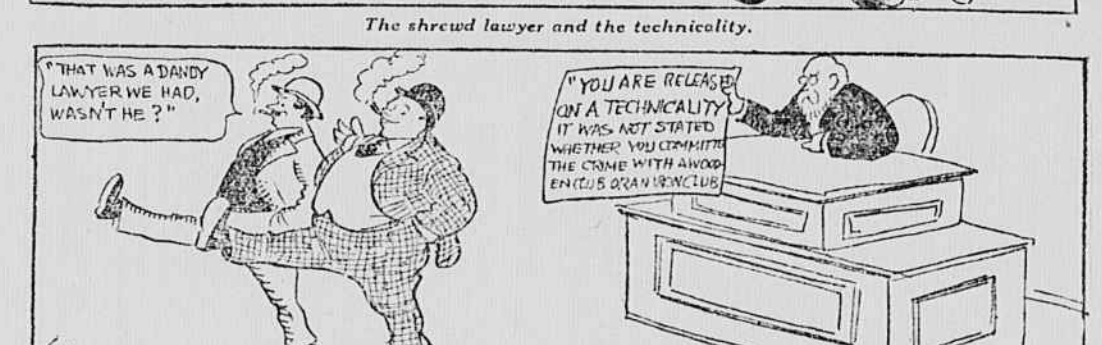
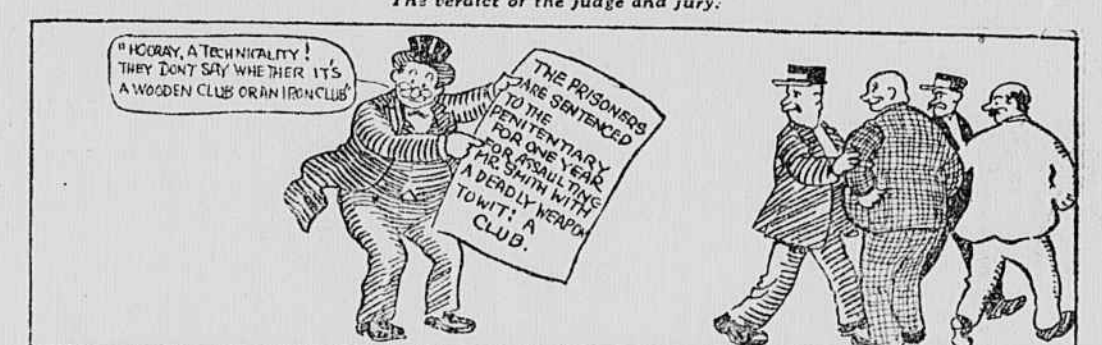
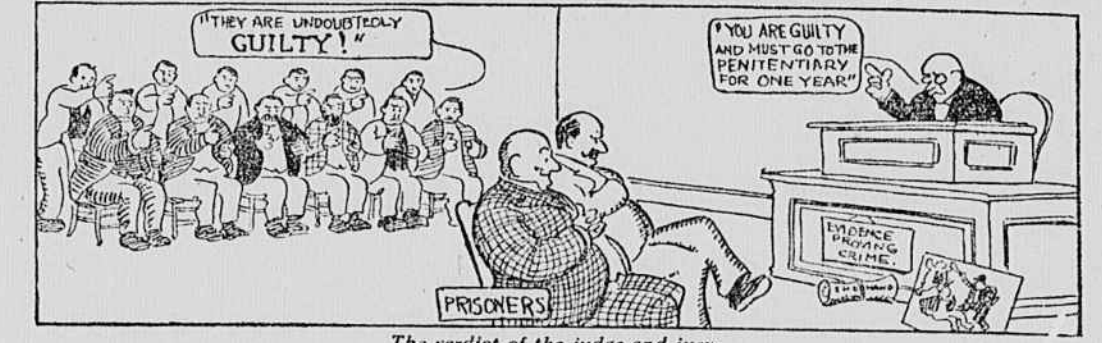
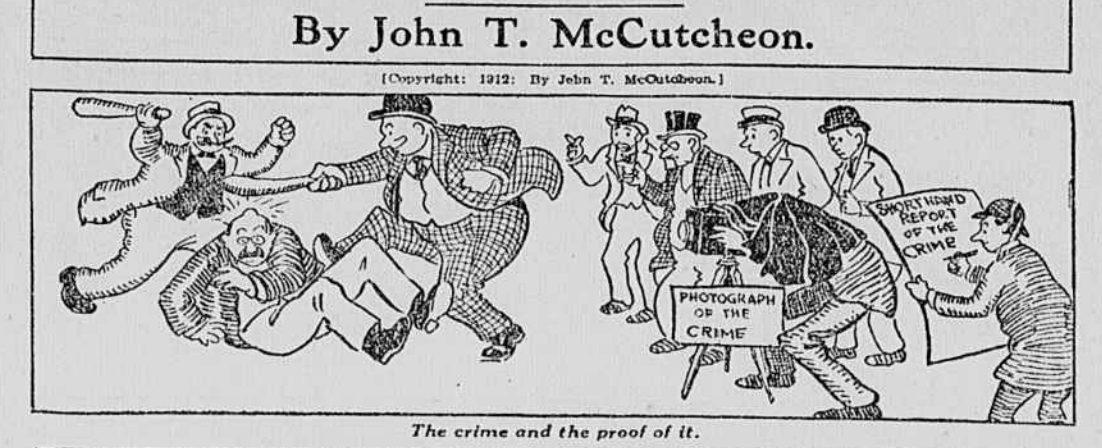
O world appalled! With grief bowed down,
Weave for your Sons the laurel crown,
And hark! as stretched forth across the sea
Clasp close in silent sympathy,
ROBERT LEE TELFORD,
Lewisburg, W. Va.

Martha Washington's Kitchen.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—H. B. Cole, in looking over some old letters, came across one which might be of interest to many of your readers. The letter referred to was addressed to the late Hon. John L. Mercer, one of our most prominent citizens, and to Mr. Cole, and was written by the late Mrs. C. R. T. Coleman, one of the honorary vice-presidents of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, and a woman well known throughout the State for her many attainments and the great interest manifested in preserving the ancient landmarks of our old Commonwealth.

The history of the small building in the park for the female attendants of the Eastern State Hospital, a building with tradition, the result is that on the early plats of the city of Williamsburg several lots are assigned to John R. Curtis, Esq. In time they were consolidated under the name of "the six-chimney lot," and became the residence of the son of John Curtis who married Martha Dandridge. Left a widow, she became the wife of General Washington. He visited her at this place and possibly made it his temporary home. The small building now left standing on the new tract, planted by Mrs. Washington herself at her



JUSTICE AS SHE IS DONE.
By John T. McCutcheon.



The crime and the proof of it.

ST. LOUIS GETS NEXT CONVENTION
Air Brake Association Will Meet in Missouri City in 1913.

St. Louis was selected yesterday by the executive committee of the Air Brake Association for the meeting place of the convention in 1913. While, under the by-laws of the organization, the choice must be ratified by the delegates before it becomes effective, in practice the selection of the executive committee is tantamount to a choice by the convention. The selection of the Missouri city will be ratified at this morning's session. Detroit was the only other competitor.

The convention will go into final adjournment at noon to-day. At 5:45 this morning will take place the annual election of officers. According to the practice of the association, there will be a general moving up of officers all along the line, the first vice-president taking the office of president, and so on through the whole list. The executive committee prepared the slate last night, and it will be submitted to the delegates to-day. The only appointments really in doubt are those to the executive committee and other administrative boards.

The sessions yesterday were devoted to the reading of a number of technical papers. Robert C. Augur discussed "Friction and Wear of Brake Shoes as Affected by the Wheel Load on Car Weight." A topical discussion on the subject, "Clasp Type of Foundation Brake Gear for Heavy Passenger Equipment Cars," followed and was led by T. L. Burton. The other address of the day was by Thomas F. Lyons, on "The P. C. Equipment in Service."

Tours of the city in specially chartered cars provided entertainment for the visiting women, and a number of the delegates took advantage of a complimentary trip to Newport News and Old Point Comfort, offered by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. A card party and informal dance were the social features of the evening.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Sinking of Vessel.
Would a wrecked vessel go to the bottom or sink only to the point where the specific gravity of the vessel equaled the water pressure? E. W. L.

It is not quite clear what you mean by "water pressure." If you have the idea that at great depths in the ocean the water becomes more dense on account of the pressure of the mass of water above, this is true, and a vessel which would sink in surface water would not necessarily descend to any great depth. But the degree to which the lower waters of the sea are condensed by pressure is not considerable, and an iron vessel would sink to the bottom, no matter how great the depth.

Probabilities.
Please state for me and explain what chance there is to draw four aces running from a deck of cards. A. B. S.

As there are fifty-two cards in a deck and four aces, the probability that you will draw an ace at the first draw is 4 divided by 52, or one in 13. The chance is 31 cards left and 3 aces, the probability is 3 divided by 31, or one in 10.33. The chance of drawing an ace, or 1 in 13, leaves 50 cards and 2 aces, or 1 chance in 25 of drawing an ace. Then there are 48 cards and 1 ace, and the probability is 1 in 48. Multiplying these fractions, 1-13, 1-31, 1-25, 1-48, you get 1-16240, or one chance in 16240 of drawing four aces "hand-running."

Reformatory Boys Caught.
Three white boys, Wirt Jaker, Wenz Kibber and Greely Fields, who escaped from the Laure, Reformatory some time ago, were returned to the city last night and lodged in the First Police Station. They had made their way to Wise county, where they formerly lived, and were brought here by the sheriff of that county, arriving yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock, and the Justice Crutcher held this morning, and he doubtless will order them back to the Reformatory.

Among the Speeders.
Pete Short, chauffeur, driving a car belonging to the Gordon Motor company, was fined \$10 by Magistrate R. A. Smith in Henrico yesterday on a charge of speeding. A county warrant was issued for D. Register on a charge of speeding in a demonstration car.

National State and City Bank
Richmond, Virginia.
Solicits Your Account.
Capital, \$1,000,000. Surplus, \$600,000.